Mentorship to Strengthen Leadership in Asian American and Pacific Islander Cancer Survivorship

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Connecting the Dots: Promoting Health Equity for AA and NHPI Populations
December 3, 2011
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)

- National health and policy advocacy organization founded in 1986

- APIAHF’s mission is to influence policy, mobilize communities and strengthen programs and organizations to improve the health of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AAs and NHPIs)
AAPI Cancer Support Groups
Mentorship Program

Goal of this presentation:
To discuss strategies to help foster effective partnerships and develop opportunities to promote leadership development and cancer support and survivorship activities in the AA and NHPI communities.

Objectives:
- Promote the development of creative and innovative partnerships in leadership development
- Empower communities to strengthen leadership capacity and program development through mentorship
Background of Mentorship Program

- APIAHF developed an Asian American & Pacific Islander Cancer Support Group Mentorship Program as a means to provide community based organizations, health clinics, social service organizations, and cancer survivors/advocates with the opportunity to develop local cancer support groups and develop and strengthen leadership skills through mentorship.

- The Call for Proposals was released, followed by a Grant Writing Training and an informational teleconference.
- Four grant proposals were submitted.
- In November 2006, three “mentee” organizations were funded in addition to two “mentor” organizations.
Definition of Mentorship (Wikipedia)

- Mentoring is a process for the informal transmission of knowledge, social capital, and the psychosocial support perceived by the recipient as relevant to work, career, or professional development.
- Mentoring entails informal communication, usually face-to-face and during a sustained period of time, between a person who is perceived to have greater relevant knowledge, wisdom, or experience (the mentor) and a person who is perceived to have less (the protégé).
Key Components of Mentorship Program

- Strategic pairing of mentor and mentee CBOs
- APIAHF coordinated monthly teleconferences between the mentor and mentee CBOs
- Mentors and APIAHF provided on-site technical assistance and trainings
- Collection of reports from mentors and mentees
- Documentation of successes and challenges
- APIAHF assisted in building the capacity of the pilot organizations to sustain the support groups after the funding period
Mentorship Relationships

- Guam Communications Network (GCN) provided cancer support group facilitator trainings from CA to Guam
- GCN served in both capacities of mentor (CA) and mentee (Guam)
- Chinatown Public Health Center was the mentor to HCA-Houston due to 15 years of having a Chinese cancer support group in San Francisco
- The Wellness Community in Southern CA was the mentor to CPACS due to 5 year-old Korean cancer support group
Mentorship Builds Capacity

- Mentored organizations demonstrate capacity to plan, implement and evaluate programs
- Mentored organizations learn from challenges experienced by mentors and problem solve when they face similar challenges
- Mentors can re-energize and encourage mentee organizations
- Mentored organizations take what they learned from their mentors and become mentors themselves (i.e. CPACS and GCN training smaller CBOs to write grants and develop health programs/projects)
Results

Ethnic and language specific cancer support groups were developed:

- Chinese community in Texas
  - 100 Chinese cancer survivors reached
- Korean community in Georgia
  - 9 Korean cancer survivors reached
- Chamorro community in Guam
  - 40 Chamorro cancer survivors reached
Herald Cancer Association- Houston

Chinese Cancer Support Group Mentee

- Monthly cancer support group is still continuing in addition to community educational seminars

- Provide one-to-one patient support activities to 10 new cancer patients and their families

- Monthly community educational seminars include musical exercise, tai chi, ACS’s Look Good, Feel Better session for current cancer patients

- Attendance ranged from 30-65

- [http://cancer.cchc.org/main/](http://cancer.cchc.org/main/)
To Nurture Self is to Create New Life 善待自己，創建新生

Quilt represents: Courage, Hope, Strength of Spirit

CPHC’s Chinese Women’s Cancer Support Group- San Francisco Mentor
Korean CARE (Cancer Alliance and Resources for Empowerment)

Mentorship relationship between Center for Pan Asian Community Services (CPACS) and The Wellness Community Foothills

www.icpacs.org
Korean Cancer Support Group

Accomplishments

- CPACS received an APIAHF Health Through Action grant to address cancer disparities through a community coalition, Georgia Asian & Pacific Islander Community Coalition (GAAPICC), comprised of 16 partner CBOs

- CPACS provided mini-grant funding to those CBOs

- CPACS developed first Asian community health navigator program in GA

- CPACS is a part of the GA Cancer Coalition’s statewide cancer navigator network and GA Cancer State Plan workgroup for survivorship palliative care

- CPACS continues their advocacy efforts with policy makers, funders and local, state and federal entities and seen as a local leader for Asian American communities

http://gaapicc.org/
Korean Cancer Support Group

- Reached 9 Korean cancer survivors with APIAHF Mentorship Program funding. Now there are 12-15 participants.

- Weblink to CPACS Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOz0PTLxGno

- CPACS received Komen $$ to continue CARE in the Korean community and expand to the Chinese community and have developed a Chinese cancer support group (6-10 survivors)
Guam Communications Network

- GCN developed and disseminated 100 cancer survivors’ resource guides for Guam
- GCN reached 40 Chamorro cancer survivors and held 29 cancer support groups
- GCN working with LIVESTRONG Army to involve Guam and Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands in cancer advocacy efforts
- GCN has mentored smaller CBOs to seek funding in the areas of cancer, tobacco, HIV, and more

http://www.guamcomnet.org/
In October 2007, GCN collaborated with

- Guam Chapter of the American Cancer Society
- Guam Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition
- Guam Dept of Public Health’s Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

...to conduct a breast cancer survivors’ forum entitled “Strength to Survive” in order to raise awareness for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
Breast Cancer Forum in Guam

The Forum was a huge success with over 150 people in attendance.
Lessons Learned & Recommendations

- More face to face time needed to strengthen mentee-mentor relationship
- More time, funding, and trainings are needed to invest in strengthening leadership roles and responsibilities
- Consistent communication is necessary to support and continue leadership development opportunities

- As you build leaders, share opportunities for them to represent their communities in local, regional and national policy making, research, health, advocacy, and multicultural committees, councils and boards
For more information...

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